

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201645
ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD:JH
APPROVED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD
-----019519 100050Z /73
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, UK

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: BOSTON DUAL DESIGNATION

ON AUGUST 8, BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DELIVERED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DOT DEPUTY SEC STEELE TO DAS ATWOOD:
QUOTE
AT THE TALKS IN LONDON ON 21/22 JUNE YOU PROMISED TO CONSIDER FURTHER WITH YOUR AIRLINES THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING ALL OR SOME OF THEIR EXISTING SERVICES FROM HEATHROW TO GATWICK, AND WE FOR OUR PART PROMISED TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT THE EXTRA COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAD SUGGESTED AS COMPENSATION FOR THE EXTRA BOSTON/LONDON SERVICE YOU HAD IN MIND.

I HAVE HEARD FROM OUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT DESPITE YOUR APPROACHES US AIRLINES ARE UNWILLING TO MOVE ANY OF

THEIR EXISTING SERVICES TO GATWICK BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE WHICH THEY BELIEVE THEY WOULD
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THEREBY INCUR.

WE HAVE NOW EXAMINED YOUR PROPOSALS WITH OUR AIRLINES AND HAVE REPORTED TO OUR MINISTERS. THEY HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC IS WELL CATERED FOR BY THE EXISTING SERVICES AND THAT NONE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH BRITISH AIRWAYS MUST EXPECT IF AN ADDITIONAL DAILY SERVICE,

OVER AND ABOVE THOSE PROVIDED FOR IN BERMUDA 2, IS
OPERATED ON THE BOSTON/LONDON GATEWAY ROUTE SEGMENT.

I THINK, THEREFORE, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THERE IS NO

PROSPECT OF OUR BEING ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A SATISFACTORY DEAL
TO ENCOMPASS THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES YOU HAVE IN MIND.
THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE REGARD THE PRESENT
PATTERN OF SERVICES AS IMMUTABLE. BUT THIS HAS BEEN A
YEAR OF ALMOST CONSTANT CHANGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AVIA-
TION SCENE AND I BELIEVE WE OUGHT NOW TO SEE HOW THINGS
SETTLE DOWN BEFORE WE MAKE ANY FURTHER CHANGES. THERE MAY
WELL THEN BE SCOPE FOR SOME EXCHANGE OF TRAFFIC RIGHTS ON
A BASIS THAT BENEFITS BOTH COUNTRIES EQUALLY AND ALLOWS
AIRLINES ON BOTH SIDES BALANCED AND PRACTICAL COMPETITIVE
OPPORTUNITIES.

UNLESS, THEREFORE, YOU HAVE ANY OTHER POINTS TO RAISE THE
TALKS IN AUGUST CAN PRESUMABLY BE RELATED ONLY TO WINTER

1978/9 CAPACITY ISSUES. I MENTIONED TO YOU WHEN WE MET IN
BONN HOW I HAD IT IN MIND TO HANDLE THE TALKS AND AWAIT
YOUR REACTIONS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

JOHN STEELE

UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: DOCUMENTS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS, AIR ROUTES
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